

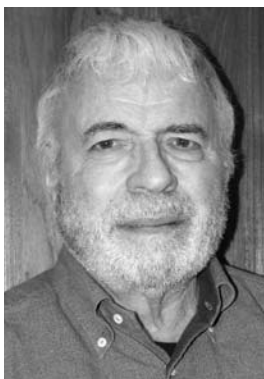
RALUT REPORTER

RETIRED ACADEMICS AND LIBRARIANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Vol. 7 No. 2 July 2007

President's Note



The Annual General Meeting was a great success, President Naylor kicking it off with an invited address which turned out to be an early airing of his 30-year perspective on the issues the University must face. A summary of his remarks will be on the RALUT web site soon. He did say that he will welcome input from us retirees as work goes forward to meet these challenges.

One of our members has pointed out a real problem with our pension and benefits. His wife died after he retired, and he subsequently remarried. The way our plans are written his new wife has no access to any of our benefits, and she is not eligible for a survivor's pension. His and his wife's problem is, to our knowledge, unique. If other retirees are in the same situation (married after retirement) please let us know. We feel that this anomaly could be eliminated at very small cost to the University. It will help to know how many are effected.

Planning ahead is not only for the young – only for the young at heart. At a lecture the other day I was approached by one of our members who is in his 80s, who wanted to be sure to be notified of the call for papers for the 2008 RALUT Symposium, next Spring. He said he has some new work that he thinks would be of interest. I'm sure it will be.

President Naylor's Views on Future Direction for U of T

University of Toronto President David Naylor had an attentive audience at our May 1st Annual General Meeting as he spoke for over an hour on this pivotal topic. Although U of T has traditionally used 5 year planning cycles, Prof. Naylor pointed out that this schedule lacked longer visionary goals and he intended now to deal with some longer-term strategic issues.

U of T has seen some significant changes during the past 20-30 years, such as much more emphasis on research and a dramatic increase in student numbers (a total of ~70,000 which includes 59,000 undergraduates). Student to faculty ratios have been rising (they are far higher here than at most other universities) and thus classes are also much larger. Smaller tutorial units have been created for academic as well as social activities in an attempt to address this problem, but many undergrads are still dissatisfied. The graduate students are much more positive, and their satisfaction score is much higher than at many other comparable universities. Compared to many other universities, however, our number of undergrads is much higher, and our number of grads is much lower.

On the positive side, U of T is #1 in many fields (e.g., publication and citation), and has the third highest research standard in North America; this despite having the lowest per capita higher education funding in Ontario, which is also the worst-funded of all the Canadian provinces. U of T

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Second Annual Senior Scholars' Symposium

The second annual symposium organized by the Senior Scholar's Committee of RALUT took place on Thursday the 29th of March at Massey College. Over sixty retired colleagues gathered to hear presentations by eight of their number. **David Peterson**, the new Chancellor of the U of T, led off the proceedings with a rousing salute to the University and to RALUT in particular. **John Fraser**, the Master of the College gave the group a warm welcome and extended Massey's hospitality to all (see sidebar) The sessions were chaired by **John Dirks** and **John McClelland**.

The eight stimulating research papers ranged widely over the disciplines that the University encompasses: medicine and physiology, environmental science and economics, the literatures of Europe and the Middle East, and—last but not least—Canadian history. **Robert Salter**, the distinguished

orthopedic surgeon from Sick Children's Hospital, spoke on his innovative technique for healing joint cartilage. His talk was enlivened by a series of slides (some X-ray), that showed just how surgeons go about using his technique to heal complicated joint fractures, sometimes calling on the assistance of mechanical engineers to achieve their results. Salter was followed by **Rivanne Sandler** from Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. She spoke about the culture of a country much in the news but that remains unknown to most of us. Her talk dwelt especially on the strategies used by Iranian women poets to express views that might be frowned upon by the regime. Next, **Bill Paul** (Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology) turned our attention to another newsworthy subject, global warming. His entertaining Powerpoint presentation illustrated the methods and implications of measuring the terrestrial carbon cycle. To end the morning, **Germaine Warkentin**, a specialist in both English and Renaissance Studies, gave a lively account of the life and *continued on page 3*

President Naylor's Views continued from page 1

needs to find a better balance and seek to improve the student experience.

Enrollment

There will be further dramatic increases in student numbers during the next few years as tens of thousands of new students will be seeking tertiary education.

So the question of optimal student numbers needs to be addressed, and also the issue of the number of campuses: Should we restrict ourselves to the three existing ones? And how should graduate and undergraduate, domestic and international enrollment be balanced?

Financial considerations

The "Basic Income Units" used to calculate provincial funding only poorly correlate with the quality of academic programs. The widening gap in per-student funding must be closed: while funding is continuously decreasing, tuition costs continue to increase. However, higher tuition fees are associated with higher attendance rates and thus become an equity issue. Should U of T consider tapping alternative funding sources, such as philanthropy, to address this significant problem?

The Evolving University Community

There are three campuses, three federated universities, four colleges. Thus a potentially overwhelming system is

disaggregated into navigable neighbourhoods; autonomy, individuality, and focal points are generated.

In conclusion President Naylor referred to future key questions and challenges, such as the balancing and distribution of resources; as well as the complex relationship of the administrative, financial and academic aspects of the university. In addition there is the urgent need to engage students in as many aspects of university life as possible. It is essential to balance independence and integration, in order to better facilitate differentiation and innovation.

Responding to questions from the floor following his speech, President Naylor discussed the advisability of re-instituting a school-leaving examination. Although U of T is doing really well in recruiting exceptional students, there are some inadequate students despite their 'A' average. About 40% of U of T students do not have English as their first language; these students are valuable assets and extremely motivated, putting us on the world map.

RALUT Honorary President Peter Russell thanked President Naylor, saying that our group feels privileged to be asked to consider U of T prospects for the next 23 years! At U of T ideas matter; we can ask timeless questions and nurture great minds of tomorrow. Peter Russell suggested that it would be worthwhile to consider using the great minds of yesterday (~700 in number), i.e., RALUT members who are very appreciative of amenities such as Retiree Centres.

Beate Lowenberg

The Second Annual RALUT Senior Scholars Symposium

Massey College, University of Toronto
March 29, 2007

The Chancellor of the University of Toronto, the Hon. David Peterson, opened the proceedings with warm words of appreciation for the continuing contribution retired faculty and librarians were making to the University. "... all the things that you have given to this university, that you continue to give, and your involvement and



commitment, intellectual and spiritual are of great benefit to this university ..."

"Please continue to stay involved, we need you, and we need your institutional knowledge, your passion ... and we need you going forward as the University of Toronto continues to fulfill its very lofty ambitions."

The Master of Massey College, John Fraser then added his welcome, noting that Massey College relied heavily on retirees, many of whom were among the college's most active senior fellows. Retirees also occupy important administrative posts in the college. He assured those present that Massey was a highly appropriate venue for scholarly gatherings such as this Senior Scholars Symposium because of its traditions, programs and location.



Second Annual Seniors Scholars Symposium from page 2

travels of the seventeenth century explorer Pierre Radisson. Her talk focused on the sources of knowledge that were available to him and that he used for his voyages and the reports he wrote on them.

The symposium then took a break for lunch and conversation in the Massey dining room and reconvened at 1.30 pm for the afternoon session. **Harold Atwood** of Physiology led off with a paper on the neurological basis of motion in the fruit fly *Drosophila*. He both instructed and amused the audience with colourful slides and containers of live fruit flies that responded to stimuli of heat and cold. The French Department's **David Smith** took us on an entertaining trip through Voltaire's devious relations with the various publishers of his works. This most important (and richest) of the eighteenth century's "philosophes" regularly criticized previous editions of his writings in order to ensure increased sales for each new edition that he published. The topic of **Dennis Duffy's** talk was Canada's weirdest Prime Minister, Mackenzie King. Duffy, of the English Department and now at Victoria College, has studied the ruins that King collected in Europe and installed on the grounds of his estate at Kingsmere, and has concluded that King's motivations were both personal and political. **Jon Cohen** of the Department of Economics took on the daunting task of arguing that, contrary to popular belief, the 1930's were a technologically advanced

decade. He showed how previous economic models were inadequate for understanding the Great Depression and presented the principles of a new model of research based on the Library of Congress's MARC Records.

Merrijoy Kelner thanked everyone for participating and attending and asked whether the experience should be repeated next year. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

The entire day's events were enlivened by social and intellectual exchange, during lunch and at the wine and cheese reception that followed the papers. All those who attended spoke enthusiastically about the experience and the presentations they had heard. One colleague in particular had previously expressed misgivings at the intermingling of scientific and humanistic subjects, but after the event, he admitted that the variability and diversity of subject matter were both novel and stimulating.

Planning has already begun for the third annual symposium to be held again next spring. This year's organizers observed that the March 29th meeting proved especially attractive to retired colleagues from the science faculties. Next time we would hope to see more RALUT members from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering among both the presenters and the audience.

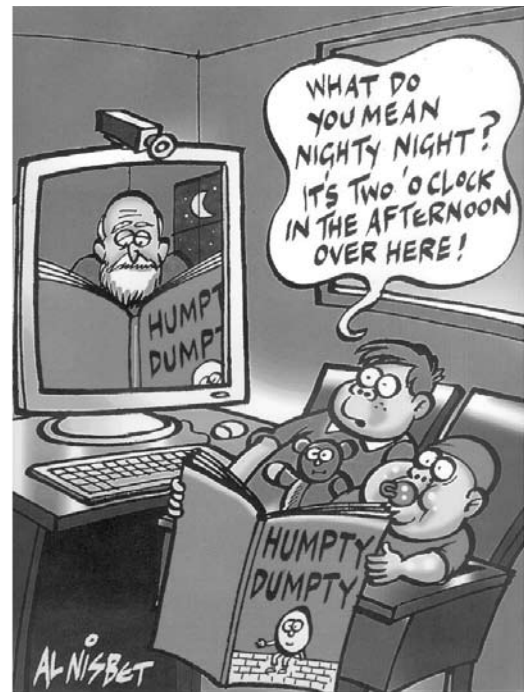
Internet for Wrinklies

The blossoming of the Internet has happened at just the right time for us retirees, who have the leisure and intelligence to explore the many facets of cyberspace which can enrich our lives. While email and net-browsing are familiar to most of you, I propose here to talk about some less well known aspects of the Internet which members of RALUT may find useful.

A high speed connection (broadband as opposed to dial-up) is essential if one is to avoid frustration. The common ways are DSL, through the telephone line, and Cable (TV). These are readily available in the city, but rural areas are less well served. Although land-based wireless connections are supposed to be reaching out into the country, as far as I know a satellite dish is the only system that will currently work anywhere. It is about four times as expensive as the DSL, but if you really need it, it is there. You can find out more about satellite service in Canada at <http://www.xplornet.com>.

Skype is by now probably known to most users of the Internet. This program, which can be down-loaded free from <http://www.skype.com>, allows you to talk, through your computer, to anyone who is running the same software on their computer, anywhere in the world. It is in effect a free telephone, and it even offers a video feature so that with an inexpensive camera you can see the person you are talking to in real time. The quality is somewhat variable; often it is as good as the best telephone connection, but at other times one may experience garbling and dropped connections. But, hey – it is free! Skype also offers a service whereby you can call any regular telephone in the world for approximately 2 cents a minute. I use the video/voice features of Skype to read to my grandchildren in New Zealand and California. It is a great way to keep in touch.

News is ubiquitous on the Internet, but I wonder how many people know about NewsStand. This service (<http://www.newsstand.com>) lets you download to your computer the print editions of many periodicals. The Globe and Mail is one of them, so instead of cluttering your house with old newspapers, you see exactly the same thing on your computer. It is less expensive than the paper copy – a four week subscription for six issues per week costs \$20. Compare that with \$30.96 per month for home delivery in Toronto. And think of the trees that are saved! For an additional \$0.25 you can download a second copy to another computer so you and your partner don't have to fight over it. How often have you leafed through the old issues looking for a vaguely remembered article? NewsStand supports your failing memory with a search feature. Being able to access



your newspaper from anywhere you have an Internet connection is another bonus.

The Internet has brought into our homes live radio from all over the world. The quality of reception is far superior to that which we used to get with short wave radio. All the BBC radio channels, countless NPR stations, Swedish, German, Australian – you name it – all can be accessed on your computer. But having to listen to the Proms at your desk is not ideal. I have discovered a gadget called “LineX USB” which connects to any PC and allows the audio from the computer to be broadcast all over your home. You then enjoy listening to it over your stereo in comfort, or in bed if you prefer. For some reason that I don't understand, this device is not available in any of the stores where you might expect it; the only place I have found it is on the Internet. I had a bad experience with an outfit in Ottawa called The Mind Factory, which took my money but failed to deliver the goods. I don't know of any other Canadian outlet, but I have found Unlimited Cellular (<http://stores.ebay.ca/Unlimited-Cellular>) in the USA to be reliable. The device costs around \$40. If there were enough interest, I could organise a bulk purchase for RALUT.

I hope these tips may be useful to some of you for whom there is still time to take advantage of the remarkable technological developments which are erupting around us. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

John Rucklidge
(john@rucklidge.com)

2007 Annual General Meeting



University of Toronto President David Naylor gave a stimulating and thought-provoking speech at our AGM held at Victoria College on May 1st (a full report of which is provided elsewhere in this issue).

RALUT President Doug Creelman spoke of the progress being made with initiatives such as the planning of the Senior Scholars/Retiree Centre, and of other accomplishments such as the joint UTFA/RALUT retirement information session scheduled to take place on May 2nd; and also referred to the reports in the AGM handouts which provided further information on the numerous additional ongoing and finalized projects being nurtured by our committees.

Doug Creelman pointed out that these committees, despite their hard-working and dedicated members, cannot cope with all of the many demands being made of them: Additional participants are urgently needed. Offers of help would be welcomed by our Pensions, Benefits, Senior



Scholars, Public Policy, Membership and Communications committees—relevant expertise not being essential.

The report presented by the Treasurer, Diane Henderson, demonstrated that RALUT's fiscally sound standing of previous years is being maintained.

The Senior Scholars Report presented by the retiring Chair, Germaine Warkentin, referred among other matters to the recent very successful second annual RALUT Symposium, held on March 29th at Massey Hall. Plans are already in hand for the 2008 Symposium, to be organized by the same team: John Dirks, Merrijoy Kelner and John McClelland.

Membership Committee and Commemorative Initiatives Sub-Committee Chair Beate Lowenberg was obviously delighted to report on the generosity of members who have been contributing with alacrity to the recent launching of the RALUT Endowed Memorial Fund in honour of our deceased members. Like the existing RALUT Memorial Fund Student Bursary which this year made its



second annual award to undergraduate Steve Bristo, this endowment will, when fully funded, target academically excellent students in financial need. On the social front, museum tours and 'Monthly First Wednesday' Faculty Club lunches are regular events. The Chair concluded with an emphatic message regarding the urgent need for--and effectiveness of--personalized direct recruiting of friends and colleagues, inviting them to join RALUT.

Chair of Benefits Committee Ruth Pike referred to recent projects such as the preparation of an information checklist to be used by anyone who may be assisting in the organization of personal affairs associated with the death of a U of T retiree or retiree's spouse and which would also be valuable for family members or others responsible for *continued on page 6*

Germaine Warkentin: Senior Scholar

RALUT owes a huge debt to Germaine Warkentin, its founding Vice-President, long time member of its Executive Committee and founding chair of its Senior Scholars Committee. Although it was bread and butter issues like pensions and health benefits that originally convinced Germaine of the need for retired faculty and librarians to form an association at U of T, her real passion has been strengthening recognition and support of senior scholars who wish to continue their academic pursuits in so-called “retirement”.

Germaine has spear-headed RALUT’s activities in this area. Collaborating with Ken Rea, she used the internet to see what retiree organizations were doing in the United States. She found that supporting the continuing scholarly activities of retirees was the *raison d’etre* of many US retiree associations. Not only did she get RALUT thinking about this dimension of its mandate, but she also made sure that the university’s academic planners were aware of the valuable resource represented by its pensioner-scholars.

The Senior Scholars Committee has been RALUT’s engine for generating ideas and action in this area. Germaine’s vision and commitment have provided powerful fuel for that engine. Among the activities the committee has

generated are a program of Senior Scholars’ Symposiums at Massey College, a whole suite of library programs to enhance retirees’ access to new information technologies, collecting and publishing information about the scholarly work and achievements of retired scholars and emerging plans for a Senior Scholars College based on the new Retiree Centre.

Now that Germaine is stepping down from chairing the Senior Scholars Committee and representing it on the RALUT Executive, she will have more time to engage in her continuing scholarly work. For Germaine, as for so many of us, that “work” is not something one has to do as a means of survival, but is activity that is at the very core of her being. She is a great humanist scholar whose engagement in Renaissance studies has illuminated many achievements of the human spirit. To give that “work” up would be to give up living.

So now she can get on with it, less distracted by the responsibilities of leadership and administration. We thank her warmly for what she has given us and wish her well in her continuing senior scholar activities – knowing full well that she will continue to be an inspiration and presence in the life of RALUT.

Peter Russell

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the handling of financial/ personal affairs. This was prepared under the leadership of committee member Jack Stevenson and has been published in the December 2006 Reporter (Vol.6 #4).

Chair of Pensions Committee Helen Rosenthal described, in addition to other issues referred to in her Report,



serious concerns shared by RALUT and UTFA regarding the management of the pension fund by U of T Asset Management Corporation (UTAM; owned by U of T) which has since 2005 been outsourcing all the actual investing to hired managers. All administrative costs including salaries and expenses (which are charged to the fund) have continued to increase dramatically under UTAM; the two highest salaries paid at U of T in 2006 are those of (1) the President and CEO of UTAM and (2) the Managing Director, Investment Strategy, of UTAM. In addition, UTFA continues to raise serious questions regarding the return on investments.

Negotiations for the salary, benefits and pensions agreement for the 2007-2008 academic year between the UTFA negotiating team and the administration team began last January. Since the latter is not interested in having further meetings, both sides will now proceed to mediation: Martin Teplitsky has been appointed mediator/arbitrator. It is therefore very unlikely that a settlement will be reached before July 1st.

Donald Bellamy, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, enlarged upon the comments *continued on page 10*

Report of CURAC Committee on Support for of Continuing Professional Activities of University and College Retirees

At the 2006 CURAC (College and University Retirees' Associations of Canada) conference at the University of Guelph, CURAC Past-President Peter Russell presented a six point plan for investigating and improving funding for retirees' research. CURAC delegates supported the plan and a number of those present volunteered to be members of a CURAC committee on this matter. The following report on the committee's work has been prepared by committee chair Peter Russell and CURAC President, Howard Fink.

Contacting the National Funding Councils

With the help of the committee, a letter was drafted and sent to the Presidents of the four national funding councils: NSERC (Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada), SSHRC (Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada), CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) and Canada Council for the Arts. Letters to the President of each Council, over the signatures of Howard Fink and Peter Russell, were sent to the Presidents of each Council in early January 2007. Although the letters were adapted to the context and mandate of each Council, all four raised two concerns: 1) the policies of funding Councils with respect to grant applications from college and university retirees, 2) retirees lack of access to small grants supported by block grants distributed within universities and a possible remedy to this problem. The letters suggested a meeting with the Council President to discuss these concerns.

The Councils' Responses

Positive responses were received from all four councils. The responses are summarized below.

NSERC: President Suzanne Fortier's reply to our letter was very positive. Dr. Fortier said that NSERC was "more than willing" to fund research programs submitted by retired senior scholars. She added that "we view retired faculty who maintain an active research program of high quality as a valuable resource to their university, their colleagues and to the students they continue to train in research."

As is shown on NSERC's website, NSERC identifies Emeritus Professors as a category of applicant. Applications from emeritus professors are evaluated "on their own merits, using the four criteria for Discovery Grants." An important consideration is "the extent of the applicant's involvement and participation in university life."

In her letter, Dr. Fortier reports that NSERC tracks the performance of various categories of applicants. These data

show that since 2001 the success rates of emeriti applicants compare very well with overall success rates. In 2006, for instance, the success rate of emeriti was 77% as compared with a success rate of 73% for all applicants. The average emeriti grant was \$31, 383 compared with \$29, 890 for all applicants. A total of \$2,605,000 was awarded to emeriti applicants in 2006.

We arranged to meet with Dr. Fortier at her office in Ottawa on February 26, 2007. At this meeting several points were clarified. The phrase "lifetime emeritus professor" that NSERC uses simply refers to any professor the university designates as emeritus. NSERC accepts each university's method of making this designation. This shows the importance of each university's policy (or lack of policy) on emeritus status. Retired professors who do not have emeritus status may apply under the adjunct professor category. These applicants, like adjunct professor applicants from industry, must have a relationship with a research program at a university.

Adjunct professor is the category under which college retirees can apply if their college has not been recognized by NSERC as an eligible institution. Such applicants would need to have a relationship with a university-based research program.

Dr. Fortier acknowledged that some institutions seem to be more supportive of emeritus applicants than others. But she pointed out that the willingness of universities and colleges to support emeriti applications depends on policy and procedures at each institution. It is not something that NSERC can control.

In response to the proposal in our letter for a special competitive small grants program, Dr. Fortier told us that NSERC no longer makes block grants to universities to support small grants. She did not think that there was much interest among NSERC's clientele for the smaller type of grant.

SSHRC: President Chad Gadfield also replied in a very positive vein. He wished to assure us "that SSHRC continues to fund scholars as long as they are affiliated with a postsecondary education, irrespective of their retirement status." Affiliation, he explained, "means that the institution is eligible to manage the funds on behalf of SSHRC and agrees to administer them for the researcher."

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PENSIONS

Helen Rosenthal

Your July 1st pension cheque will include the pension plan's indexation of 75% of the total increase in the Canadian CPI (Consumer Price Index) from December 2005 to December 2006. According to Bank of Canada data, the increase over the indicated time period was 2.0%, and so your pension cheque will be increased by 1.5% as of July 1.

Your pension will only retain the same purchasing power you had when you retired if this increase is augmented by

the additional 25% of the increase in CPI. UTFA includes the demand for this augmentation in its negotiations with the administration, which are now in the mediation / arbitration stage with Martin Teplitsky as the mediator / arbitrator. There are a number of meetings scheduled during the summer. Since the process will not conclude by July 1, the augmentation should be granted retroactive to that date.

The RALUT Pensions Committee has dealt with a number of inquiries from RALUT members regarding individual pensions. Please contact us if we can be of assistance.

Report of Committee continued from page 7

He also wished to assure us that "it is SSHRC's policy to continue to support a faculty member's research project that was approved prior to retirement on condition that all terms and conditions are respected."

As for the block grants, universities are responsible for managing them. Each institution is free to distribute them through its own process provided it follows the general guidelines for the SIG (SSHRC Institutional Grants) program. His letter went on to say that SSHRC is not in a position to directly fund a program of small grants for senior scholars "given the fact that retired scholars are already eligible to apply to SSHRC's grants program if they are affiliated with an eligible institution."

Like Dr. Fortier, he concluded on a positive note, commenting that "SSHRC values and supports the contribution of retired scholars to the research endeavour in Canada" and noting that "we continue to work with many of them as external assessors and members of adjudication committees."

Because of a heavy travel schedule in his first few months in office, Dr. Gadfield was not able to meet with us. But we were able to arrange a meeting with SSHRC Executive Vice-President, Dr. Janet Halliwell on March 20. This was a very useful meeting. Dr. Halliwell confirmed that retirement status is simply not a relevant consideration in assessing grant applications. This means that, unlike NSERC, SSHRC does not keep statistics on applications from emeriti or retired scholars. She pointed to major collaborative programs as providing particularly good opportunities for retired scholars to be funded as members of research teams.

She said that SSHRC was not aware that small grants supported by its institutional block grants were generally not available to retirees. She indicated that SSHRC had not reviewed its institutional grant program for several years, but that the difficulty experienced by retired faculty in getting these grants might be something to look into when the next review takes place. Given that SSHRC can support only 40% of applications that are positively appraised, it was not in a position to fund any additional programs.

CIHC: In his reply to our letter, CIHC President, Dr. Alan Bernstein, assured us "that there are no particular restrictions that would prevent retired academics from applying for support." He said that "CIHR will continue to support eligible applications from retired scholars."

Dr. Bernstein thought that the "proposed dedicated funding envelope" for small grants for retired scholars was interesting. "There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in Canada's retired scholars' community which could be usefully transferred to a new emerging generation of scholars," he commented. But budgetary constraints "would prevent the launching of any new initiatives in the foreseeable future."

Dr. John Dirks, who served as the President of the embryo organization that founded CURAC and is the President and Scientific Director of the Gairdner Foundation, met with Dr. Bernstein to follow up his letter. This meeting confirmed that retirees were totally eligible to apply for research funding from CIHC, providing they have the necessary backing of their institutions. Dr. Dirks comments that this shows how important it is "to ensure that universities, research institutions and other relevant agencies are agreeable to acting as the signee and accountants for active retirees who work to submit grant applications to CIHR."

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Publications and Honours

Germaine Warkentin has kept this part of the REPORTER going for some years. Very successfully. But a lot of work. She has decided it is time to take a rest and take her leave. We are all grateful for her efforts. Thanks Germaine.

The intention is to keep up this section of the REPORTER, but exactly what the form will be has not yet been decided.

So, keep sending in notices of your publications and of any honours you have received. Send them to the Editor at the RALUT office or to his e-mail address: fwilson@chass.utoronto.ca

Fred Wilson,
Editor, RALUT REPORTER

Report of Committee continued from page 8

Canada Council: The reply from Robert Sirman, the Council's Director, was clear and to the point: Canada Council grants "are awarded on the artistic merit of the work accomplished and the proposed project, rather than on the academic status of the applicant." He went on to say that a change in employment status from active to retired faculty would have no impact on continuation of a grant. His letter concluded with this statement: "Retired faculty members who are active professional artists can apply to or programs for individual artists at any time."

In the light of Director Sirman's reply, there did not seem to be any reason to ask for a meeting with him.

Conclusions and Next Steps

We were pleased with the very positive responses of the funding councils. They are aware of the valuable research that continues to be done by faculty in "retirement" and are keen to see that retiree proposals are funded through existing programs. It will be important for CURAC to keep in touch with the councils to ensure that this awareness continues. There is no possibility, however, that in the foreseeable future the councils will be in a position to fund a small grants program targeted for senior scholars.

We think it important that the community of retiree scholars be made aware of the councils' positive policies with respect to funding applications from retired scholars. To that end this report should be posted on the CURAC website. Member associations may also wish to use their newsletters to make their members aware of the report.

Our interaction with the Councils makes it clear that for retirees the main obstacles to obtaining funding are within the universities and colleges. Affiliation with an

"eligible institution" and obtaining institutional support are necessary conditions for having an application for funding considered by NSERC, SSHRC or CIHC. Responses to the CURAC survey on non-medical benefits plus anecdotal evidence and the impressions of the councils indicate that the willingness of universities and colleges to support retiree applications to funding councils varies considerably both among institutions and within institutions.

Laboratory and office space are limited everywhere, as are administrative resources. Even so, institutions that value the contributions of senior scholar should have policies that encourage departments and faculties to do their best to accommodate peer-reviewed retiree research projects. A process that provides an appeal to the academic vice-president (as has been established at the University of Toronto) provides protection against unreasonable denials of support at the departmental or faculty level.

What future actions should be considered by the CURAC Professional Support Committee? Here are a few suggestions:

- assemble information about the accomplishments of retired scholars – publications, awards etc – to be used to demonstrate the importance of their research contributions,
- explore the possibility of a small grants program for senior scholars being funded by a government department, foundation or private benefactor,
- invite staff members of CURAC associations to submit any ideas they might have on CURAC helping to obtain support for their continuing professional activities.

The Toronto Round Table

During our 2006-7 session, meetings were both stimulating and well attended. Speakers included Chief Justice Roy McMurtry on the subject of making the city safer, Michael Mckeown on "Samuel Pepys and His Times", Susan Wilkinson on the "Welsh Migration to Patagonia and Subsequent Migration to Saskatchewan", David Rudd on "Strategic Issues for Canada" and Prof. James Estes on "Why Freedom of Religion is a Bad Thing: The Sixteenth-Century German Reformers Explain It All For You.". In addition we had an excellent pictorial and educational talk by Dr Peter Alberni titled "Nanjing: Ancient Capital Modern City".

Our 2007-8 session starts on September 12th with Paul Johnston, Senior Partner of Kentridge Johnston, Planning Consultants, on a subject related to the Greater Toronto Area Plan. On October 10th our speaker will be Jean Iron on her High Artic voyage from Greenland to Nunavut. Jean is famous for her beautiful photography and her deep knowledge of nature.

In November Graeme Gibson will be talking about his book "The Bedside Book of Birds". In December the speaker will be the Hon. Bill Graham, Chancellor of Trinity College, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Defense.

In the New Year Margaret McBurney will be talking about "The Great Adventure: The Arts & Letters Club's First Century" and Peter Moon will tell stories from his experiences as an investigative reporter for the Globe and Mail and other newspapers.

The Toronto Round Table (TRT) is an informal luncheon club (established about 1901) for U of T Alumnae, particularly recently retired academics and librarians, and others to meet old friends and acquaintances and to listen to stimulating speakers on a wide range of subjects. There is a buffet lunch followed by the speaker at about 12.45 pm. Please do not hesitate to introduce the luncheon club to your friends and people whom you think might be interested. There are normally between 35 and 60 people at each meeting.

The TRT's new President is John Tyacke and new Vice President is Jock Galloway. The TRT meets at Hart House at Noon the second Wednesday of the each month, September to May. Membership cost is \$30(single) and \$40(double) and the cost of lunch is \$15. For membership enquiries contact Peter Levitt at levittsp@sympatico.ca or 416-967-5535.

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made in his written statement by reporting that discussions with Canadian consultants have been re-opened. A proposal will be submitted to a consulting firm concerning the development of a plan for a Senior Scholars Home near U of T--possibly with long-term care facilities; despite rather daunting problems with (for example) land issues.

The Newsletter and Communications Report was presented by Fred Wilson, editor of the RALUT Reporter, who thanked many past contributors such as Doug Creelman, Germaine Warkentin, and Ken Rae for their reports, photographs, and general assistance. Fred also put in a request for more short articles in the future on topics relevant to RALUT. Web Master Ed Barbeau reported on recent additions to the RALUT website, such as the Calendar of Events.

The Nominations Committee Report was presented by the President, Doug Creelman in the absence of the Chair, Cornelia Baines. Since there were no further nominations from the floor the following Nominations were accepted unanimously:



Returning members: Don Bellamy, Ruth Pike, Fred Wilson, Jack Stevenson, Helen Rosenthal.

New members: Dorothy Pringle, Scott Rogers.

Officers for 2007-2008: Doug Creelman, President (07-09); Lino Grima, Vice-President (06-08); Ed Barbeau, Vice-President (06-08); *continued on page 11*

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Diane Henderson, Treasurer (06-08); Cornelia Baines, Secretary (06-08).

Other members: Beate Lowenberg (06-08); Don Bellamy (06-08); Ruth Pike (07-09); Fred Wilson (07-09); Scott Eddie (06-08); Jack Stevenson (07-09); Helen Rosenthal (07-09); John Rucklidge (06-08); Dorothy Pringle (07-09); Scott Rogers (07-09).

Past President: Ralph Garber; **Honorary President:** Peter Russell.

The motion proposed by Cornelia Baines: 'That RALUT extend its appreciation to Germaine Warkentin, a founding member of RALUT and continuing member of the executive committee, who played a major role in every aspect of RALUT including most recently her accomplishments

as chair of the Senior Scholars Committee' was passed unanimously.

On the motion to adjourn, the meeting expressed unanimous votes of thanks to Jack Stevenson for his successful organization of the 2007 AGM and thanked RALUT's Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Walker for all her valuable help; concluding by expressing appreciation to the Executive for their contributions to the many projects in which RALUT is actively interested.

Beate Lowenberg

Yale Centre for Retired Professors

(From a report in the NY Times 13 Nov, 2002, by Mark Glassman, and Yale press releases)

Yale was embarrassed.

Not by the fact that ID cards for emeriti professors said “non-employee.” Only the new “non-employees” noticed that or were displeased by it.

The embarrassment was more public.

The university had mandatorily retired chemistry professor John B. Fenn at age 70 in 1993. Prof. Fenn was not happy. He got his revenge. He moved to Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994, and subsequently, at age 85, won a Nobel Prize.

Yale later (in 2003) decided to create the Henry Koerner Center for retired

professors. This centre aims to provide a focal point for the activities of the emeritus faculty and to integrate them into the life of the University. It consists of a common area, a seminar room, 2 carrels, and 12 offices for retired professors who may not want to teach courses but still want to be involved in publishing, advising and other aspects of academic life. Each office is equipped with a computer and telephone.

Yale also did what the US Supreme Court ordered it to do: it ended mandatory retirement in 1993.

Reminder

In order to help the university find people to chair PhD oral examinations, we urge retired professors who were previously qualified for this task to consider submitting their names as possible candidates to their departments. This is an important function to fulfill if you are able.

Cornelia Baines, Chair Senior Scholars Committee.

You HAVE to watch this!

Just hit the link and turn up your sound. Posted by Russ Wooldridge on the Senior Scholars web site; here's the link, Germaine. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqfFrCUrEbY>

Contributions Wanted, Welcomed

Members of RALUT should remember that the REPORTER welcomes articles, pieces of news, complaints, what have you. The only criterion is that they should be of interest to retired academics and librarians at the University of Toronto. Send your submissions to the editor, by e-mail, or by ordinary mail to the RALUT office.

*Fred Wilson
fwilson@chass.utoronto.ca*

Publication Notice

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